

Unpopularity of the French Alliance.

validity and effect. The documents bearing her signature attest the astonishing duplicity of this transaction, and they certainly show that political morality was not among the many accomplishments of *the protegee* of Diana of Poitiers and the Guises. They prove, too, that the Franco-Scottish alliance on such terms was assuredly not preferable to the reformers' policy of an alliance with England, and, though the reform leaders could not have known of these masterpieces of deceit, there can be no question which policy was more to the advantage or detriment of Scotland as an independent State.

The Scottish Parliament ratified the public agreements, and even consented to send the crown of Scotland ("the crown matrimonial," as it was termed) to France, as a gauge to her husband of the zeal and affection of her Scottish lieges. Sent, however, it never was, and the sudden death at Dieppe of four of the returning commissioners, who had, as a body, refused to assent to this demand, suggested foul play, and did not tend to add to the popularity of the marriage itself in Scotland.

Popular it certainly was not with the growing section of the nation that was hopelessly alienated from the old Church and the French alliance, the pillar on which it rested. Equally unpopular was it in the eyes of those who, on patriotic grounds alone, were apprehensive lest Scotland, despite Acts of Parliament and solemnly ratified treaties, should ere long sink into a mere province of France. Nay, it was within the range of probability that England itself might be forced into a regal union which would make France supreme in Western Europe and the Guises the dictators of its destiny. The year that witnessed the marriage of Mary Stuart witnessed the death of Mary Tudor. In the eyes of Henry II. Mary Stuart was her rightful successor, and, in defiance of the English Parliament and people, he publicly proclaimed her Queen of England, Scotland, and Ireland. So seriously did he take the claim, that Mary and her husband assumed the crown of England, and the Dauphin adhibited his name to the Treaty of Cateau Cambresis as "Francis, by the grace of God, King of Scotland, England, Ireland, and Dauphin of France."

Note attentively these two facts which the close of the year 1558 had brought into prominence—the fact of a grow-